

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 /099 W

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R 080550Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4441

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORN, UN, RQ

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 049330

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY BHATT MARCH 5 AND REVIEWED THE ESSENTIALS OF US POSITION ON PUERTO RICO ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO THE AGENDA OF THE NON-APUGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND NEPAL'S MEMBERSHIP IN THAT GROUP. BHATT REITERATED WHAT HIS PREDECESSOR HAD TOLD ME LAST OCTOBER (KATHMANDU 4419), I.E. THAT NEPAL DID NOT ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE ACTIONS OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP AT LIMA ON PUERTO RICO. I TOLD BHATT THAT WHILE WE APPRECIATED THIS, WE WERE NOW ASKING NEPAL TO GO BEYOND THIS POSITION AND TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IT DID NOT SUPPORT THE LIMA STATEMENT WHENEVER THE ISSUE ARISES IN THE PREPARATORY WORK OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE NON-ALIGNED.

2. BHATT ASKED IF WE WERE MAKING SIMILAR APPROACHES TO THE OTHER MODERATES IN THE ASIAN GROUP. HE NOTED THAT WITH SRI LANKA UNLIKELY TO TAKE ANY DISCORDANT POSITION BECAUSE OF ITS ROLE AS HOST OF THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT, THE ASIAN CONTINGENT OF MODERATES

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CONSISTED OF NEPAL, INDIA, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA, AND

THAT THEIR POSITION WAS MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE PRESENCE OF LAOS, CAMBODIA AND NORTH KOREA AMONG THE "NON-ALIGNED". I TOLD HIM THAT APPROACHES WERE BEING MADE IN SOME OF THE COUNTRIES HE MENTIONED, AS WELL AS IN CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING GROUP, AND THAT, AS A RESULT, WE HOPED THERE WOULD BE SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE SPECIFIC DISCLAIMERS ON THE LIMA STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO.

3. STANDING UP TO BE COUNTED ON THIS WILL BE A DIFFICULT STEP FOR NEPAL, BUT I CAME AWAY FROM BHATT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DECISION WILL BE EASIER IF A FEW OTHERS ARE ALSO WILLING TO DO SO. BHATT SAID HE WOULD SPECIFICALLY DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH WHEN HE VISITS DELHI MARCH 16-18. CARGO

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